

As for *Pipilo chlorurus*, its skeleton is quite the counterpart of the skeleton in *Zonotrichia coronata*, and is readily distinguished from the skeleton of *Pipilo m. megalonyx*, which is by no means an easy task in the case of the first-mentioned species. I believe, from my studies of the anatomy of this form, that it has more Zonotrichine stock in its economy than it has Towhee kinship to boast of, and it sees its nearest affinity in the family among the 'Crown Sparrows.'

Osteologically, *Calcarius*, *Spinus*, and *Acanthis* are more or less closely affined genera, nor does the genus *Plectrophenax* stand between them as at present represented in our Check-List. *Calamospiza*, as I have already remarked, is a true 'Bunting,' but not especially related to the Grosbeaks by any skeletal affinity, and it characterizes a strong genus with well-defined osteological features. Judging from such a form as *Piranga ludoviciana*, I would say that osteologically the Tanagers form a good family, and through certain Grosbeaks are linked with the Fringillidae, more, though only a little more, remotely through *Icteria* with the 'Wood-Warblers.'

These groups and their kin will bear far more extended anatomical study, which some day I hope to bestow upon them. In closing, it gives me pleasure to thank Mr. C. A. Allen, of Nicasio, California, for his kindness in collecting and sending me the specimen of *Zonotrichia coronata*; it was received in April, 1881, seven years ago.

Very respectfully yours,

R. W. SHUFELDT.

Fort Wingate, New Mexico, July 14, 1888.

How far West has *Anas obscura* been found?

TO THE EDITORS OF THE AUK:—

Sirs:—In my Revised Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas I said "*Anas obscura* Gml. Black Duck. Entered in first catalogue as 'migratory; rare'; but since, on comparing the specimens captured in the State, that I have seen, with Eastern ones, they prove to be the 'Florida Duck.' Other writers claim that the birds have been taken in the State, also in Texas, and west to Utah, and I am inclined to think that further investigation will prove it to be the case. With this explanation I let the bird stand as first entered."

I now desire to say that further examination tends to convince me that the birds do not come as far west as this, and leads me to think it probable that all specimens taken west of the Mississippi River, will prove upon comparison to be the Florida Duck. A set of eight eggs collected near Corpus Christi, Texas, May 27, 1882, and reported to me as of this species, are in dimensions altogether too small, viz.,—2.08 × 1.62, 2.12 × 1.62, 2.10 × 1.58, 2.12 × 1.60, 2.12 × 1.59, 2.08 × 1.62, 2.10 × 1.60, 2.08 × 1.59 inches. In color they are cream or pale buff white.

Any information that will aid in determining their western limits will be gratefully received.

N. S. GOSS.

Topeka, Kansas.